

Good Neighbor Environmental Board **ROUND-UP**

Board and environmental news along the U.S.-Mexico border

Volume 3, Number 4
September 2002



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Calendar of 2002 Good Neighbor Environmental Board Meetings **October 9-10, 2002 Nogales, AZ**

Placido DosSantos Appointed as Chair of the Board

Placido DosSantos, Border Environmental Manager at the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), has been appointed Chair of the Good Neighbor Environmental Board by EPA Administrator Christine Whitman. Mr. DosSantos will serve a one-year term. He has served as a Board member since 1998. We welcome him to his new position and already are benefitting from his leadership skills.

Daiva Balkus Named Director of Office That Manages Board

Daiva Balkus has been named Director of EPA's Office of Cooperative Environmental Management (OCEM). OCEM is the staff office within the EPA Administrator's Office that has day-to-day administrative responsibility for the Good Neighbor Environmental Board. (Elaine Koerner, the Designated Federal Officer for the Board, is based in that office.) Ms. Balkus came to OCEM from her most recent position as Director of the Office of Human Resources and Organizational Services for EPA. We welcome her to the Good Neighbor team and look forward to having her with us at the Nogales meeting.

Two New Federal Agency Representatives Appointed

Two new federal members have been appointed by senior officials within their respective agencies. The new Department of Commerce representative is Steve Nesmith, the current Deputy Assistant Secretary Congressional Liaison for Program Research and Evaluation. In addition, Shannon Sorzano, Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), is the new HUD representative on the Board. We look forward to having their expertise at the Board's discussion table.

Three Non-Federal Board Members Re-Appointed, One New Non-Federal Member

Existing Board members Karen Chapman, Ed Ranger, and Nancy Sutley have been re-appointed by Administrator Whitman to serve additional two-year terms. In addition, Valecia Gavin of Fairacres, New Mexico has been appointed as a new member of the Board. Congratulations to all.

Board Member Re-Elected as Vice Chair of Cocopah Tribe

Board Member Dale Phillips of Somerton, Arizona, has been re-elected as Vice Chair of the Cocopah Tribe; Mr. Phillips will serve a two-year term. We extend our best wishes, and continue to appreciate his contributions to the work of the Board.

Former Board Member Contributing Author in New Publication

Former Board Member Mark Spalding is one of the contributing authors in a new report sponsored by The Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation at UC San Diego. Its name is "Both Sides of the Border: Transboundary Environmental Management Issues Facing Mexico and the United States."

Nogales, Arizona Meeting Plans Finalized

Planning committee members are finalizing details for the Board's final meeting of 2002, which will take place in Nogales, Arizona on October 9th and 10th. The meeting site is the City of Nogales Mayor and Council Chambers; its dual theme: "conservation" and "health." Anticipated highlights: speakers from a variety of sectors; a public comment session; and a special session on the second day on the relationship between Homeland Security and border-region environmental infrastructure. In addition, Board members will determine dates and locations for its meetings during 2003.

Border Region and National News

*from the Good Neighbor Environmental Board
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****Note: The items in the section below have been cut-and-pasted and compiled from other documents. Please check a primary source to ensure complete accuracy. Web sites may have to be re-entered.****

- **Attache** - Matthew Witosky of EPA Region 6 has been selected as the Agency's next Environmental Attache to Mexico. He will take over the position from Larry Sperling.
- **Border 2012** - EPA, SEMARNAT, the ten border states, and U.S. border tribes are preparing to announce the proposal for the "Border 2012: U.S.-Mexico Environmental Program." Participants also include U.S. and Mexican health agencies This program will be a sequel to the Border XXI Program.. The public comment period currently is estimated to begin late September and extend through November and will include a series of binational meetings. See www.epa.gov/usmexicoborder .
- **CEC - Energy** - A binational initiative for installing new sustainable thermoelectric plants in the U.S./Mexico border region is among sixteen community-based energy grants awarded by the CEC. See

www.cec.org.

Meeting Outcomes - Among the CEC's decisions during its June annual meeting: establish a North American Air Working Group; conduct a comparative study of the air quality standards in the three countries; continue the Secretariat's work on renewable energy; make further progress toward a shared North American emission inventory; select and publish a core set of children's environmental indicators for North America; and conduct a feasibility study for pilot project on electronic tracking of hazardous waste movements between Mexico and the U.S.

People - Janine Ferretti has stepped down as Executive Director of the CEC. Vic Shantora has been named Acting Executive Director.

Report - CEC has released a report that profiles the North American electricity market.

- Enforcement - People - The U.S. Senate has confirmed John Peter Suarez to be EPA Assistant Administrator for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance.
- Environmental Justice - The National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, a federal advisory committee managed by EPA, has released a report called "Integration of Environmental Justice in Federal Agency Programs."
- Health - Air - EPA has released the final "Health Assessment Document for Diesel Engine Exhaust." See <http://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea>
Children's - EPA has awarded approximately \$600,000 to two universities for economic research in understanding the benefits of reducing asthma in children. One of the two is the University of California/Berkeley.
Research - U.S. Public Interest Research Group Education Fund has released a report called "Health Tracking and Disease Clusters." Cluster investigation sites included El Paso, Texas, and Laredo, Texas.
- IBWC - Under Minute 308, the governments of the United States and Mexico have agreed on a strategy to address water scarcity problems affecting the Rio Grande basin.
- Information Exchange - EPA has awarded \$25 million in grants to 44 states, 17 tribes, and 1 U.S. territory to help develop the National Environmental Information Exchange Network. The Network will be a mechanism for sharing environmental data among EPA, states, and other partners over the Internet; projects will include information exchange using common formats and integrating data from multiple media. See www.epa.gov/neeengprg
- NADBank - Fund - NADBank has set up an \$80 million Water Conservation Investment Fund. Public comments on the proposed guidelines for the fund are invited. Deadline: October 7, 2002. See www.nadbank.org
- Private Sector - Voluntary Initiatives - EPA has added 23 new members to the National Environmental Performance Track Program, which includes both public and private entities. New members from the U.S. border states: Ricoh Electronics, Tustin, CA; International Paper Texaskana Mill, Domino, TX; Rockwell Collins, Richardson, TX; Ryder System, El Paso, TX; Ryder System, Laredo, TX; and University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX.
- State Government - Arizona - ADEQ Director Jacqueline Schafer has resigned and accepted a senior position with U.S. AID in Washington, D.C. Richard W. Tobin II has been appointed by Governor Jane

Dee Hull as Acting Director.

New Mexico - New Mexico Environment Department Cabinet Secretary Peter Maggiore has resigned. Governor Gary Johnson has announced the appointment of John D'Antonio, Jr. as the new Cabinet Secretary.

Texas - The state environmental agency of Texas has changed its name from The Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (TNRCC) to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

- Water - Rio Conchos - The Texas Center for Policy Studies has posted proceedings from the "Discovering the Rio Conchos" binational conference on its web site. See www.texascenter.org
Rio Grande - The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (formerly called TNRCC) has published "State of the Rio Grande and the Environment of the Border Region, Strategic Plan - Vol. 3."
Urban - EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in which 8 degraded urban rivers will be selected over the next 12 months for restoration. Contact: Stephen Luftig, (703) 603-9931.
Wastewater - The El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board has opened a \$37.2 million water treatment plant expansion. See www.nadbank.org.
Watersheds - EPA is requesting nominations for President Bush's Watershed Initiative. See www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/initiative.

Events Calendar

*from the Good Neighbor
Environmental Board September 2002
Round-Up*

Notes: Event listings below have been drawn from other lists. Please check a primary source for accuracy. **Events specific to border region are in bold**. Web sites may have to be re-entered. Please notify Editor of changes.

Sept 18	EPA El Paso Border Office panel: Farmworker Issues, El Paso, TX
Sept 25	BECC Board Meeting, El Paso, TX. See www.cocof.org
Sept. 30 - Oct 2	XXXII Bridges and Border Crossings Conference, San Diego, CA. Contact: Laura McCallum, (202) 647-8529.
Oct 2-5	Border Trade Alliance conference, San Diego, CA. See: www.thebta.org/sandiego.htm
Oct 3-4	JPAC public workshop on freshwater issues and regular session, Albuquerque, NM. See www.cec.org
Oct 5-7	National Hispanic Environmental Council's first California Latino Environmental & Natural Resources Conference, Sacramento, CA. See www.nheec.org
Oct 9-10	Good Neighbor Environmental Board Meeting, Nogales, AZ

Oct 9	EPA El Paso Border Office Monthly Border Forum
Oct 10	EPA San Diego Border Office Open House
Oct 16	California Regional Water Quality Control Board - Colorado River Basin public workshop: New River at the International Border, Calexico, CA. Contact: Doug Wylie, (760) 346-6585
Oct 18	National Water Monitoring Day. See www.yearofcleanwater.org
Oct 21-23	Race for Clean Water Conference 2002, Dover, DE. See www.dnrec.state.de
Oct 23-25	10 th Annual EPA Tribal Environmental Conference, Sparks, NV.
Oct. 24-25	Border Energy Forum IX, Saltillo, Coahuila. See www.glo.state.tx.us/energy/border/forum/9/
Oct 28-30	New Mexico Annual Environmental Health Conference, Albuquerque, NM. See www.nmeh.org
Oct 30 - Nov 1	World Watershed Summit, Washington, D.C.
Nov 7-9	IV Meeting on the Border Environment, Tucson, AZ. See www.encuentrofronterizo.org
Nov 9-13	130 th Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association, Philadelphia, PA.
Nov 13	EPA El Paso Border Office Monthly Border Forum
Nov 14	EPA San Diego Border Office Open House
Nov 14-15	New Ventures Investor Forum, Monterrey, Mexico. See www.new-ventures.org
Nov 14-16	Arizona-Mexico Commission Plenary Session, Puerto Penasco, Sonora, MX. Contact: Shannon Wulf, (602) 542-1377. See www.azmc.org or www.comisionsonora-arizona.gob.mx
Nov 18-22	First International Symposium on Transboundary Waters Management, Monterrey, MX. See www.TransboundaryWatersMexico.org
Nov 19	Public Meeting for Tijuana-Rosarito Master Plan for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure, San Ysidro Middle School
Dec 3-4	Roundtable: "Implementing Integrated Water Resources Management for the Western U.S.-Mexico Border Region," Scottsdale, AZ Contact: Carol Graves +1 858 453 5560, ext. 107.
Dec 4-6	EPA National Compliance Assistance Providers Forum, San Antonio, TX. Contact: Joanne Berman, (202) 564-7064.
Dec 9-10	JPAC Financing and the Environment public workshop and regular session Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, MX.. See www.cec.org
Dec 11	EPA El Paso Border Office Monthly Border Forum
Dec	BECC meeting
Dec	NADBank meeting, San Antonio, TX
<u>2003</u>	
Mar 16-23	Third World Water Forum, Kyoto, Shiga, and Osaka, Japan. www.worldwaterforum.org
June	Border Governors Conference, Chihuahua, Chih., MX. See: www.bordergovernors.com
June	CEC Annual Council Session, Washington, D.C.

July 30 - Aug 1 - Conference: Water Security in the 21st Century, Washington, D.C. Contact:
mskerly@siu.edu

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Editor: Elaine Koerner, Designated Federal Officer, Good Neighbor Environmental Board, (202) 233-0069.